

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN SY-04

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DRAFTED BY A/SY/FO:ESCHEELE:CWH
APPROVED BY A/SY/FO:VERNE F. ST. MARS
ARA/MGT - FCPARROTT (SUBS)

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R 032233Z JAN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 001458

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: FULLY ARMORED VEHICLE

FOR RSO SANTIAGO; FOR RSS AND RTC PANAMA

1. SY/FO PROPOSES TO SEND SANTIAGO A NEW FULLY ARMORED VEHICLE FOR USE BY COM. THIS VEHICLE IS TO BE TESTED AND ACCEPTED AT THE CONTRACTORS PLANT IN COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA IN JANUARY.

2. VEHICLE IS A 1974 CHRYSLER NEW YORKER SEDAN, SERIAL NO. CS41T4C194414, PURCHASE ORDER NO. 2029-490004. WEIGHT APPROXIMATELY 6100 LBS. IT HAS A 440 CID 4 BBL CARB ENGINE ADJUSTED TO BURN REGULAR FUEL. WHEREVER POSSIBLE, MECHANICAL SYSTEMS ARE HEAVY DUTY. BOTH HOOD AND TRUNK LATCHES CAN BE CONTROLLED WITHIN CAR. TIRES ARE SPECIAL LOAD RANGE D (EQUIVALENT TO 6-8 PLY), AND HAVE STEEL/RUBBER INNER SAFETY ROLLERS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING LIFT AND MANEUVERING CAPABILITY AFTER THE TIRE HAS BEEN SHREDDED FROM GRENADE OR WEAPONS FIRE. SIDE AND REAR OPAQUE SURFACES ARE OF CERAMIC ARMOR CAPABLE OF DEFEATING UP TO .30 CAL MILITARY BALL AMMO (ALSO 7.62 NATO AND 7.62M43 RUSSIAN, SUCH

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AS FIRED FROM AK-47). SIDE AND REAR TRANSPARENT ARMOR IS

A GLASS/PLASTIC COMPOSITE ARMOR WHICH WILL ALSO DEFEAT UP

TO .30 CAL. FRONT WINDSHIELD IS A MOLDED MONOLITHIC POLYCARBONATE WITH HARDENED SURFACES CAPABLE OF DEFEATING UP TO 9MM PISTOL AND SUBMACHINE GUN FIRE AT 0 DEGREES OBLIQUITY, NOT INCLUDING AUTOMATIC RIFLE FIRE, ALTHOUGH IT WILL DEFEAT MORE SEVERE FIRE TO AN UNKNOWN DEGREE AT ANGLES. FLOOR PAN COVERED WITH 12 PLYS OF GLASS REIN-FORCED PLASTIC (GRP) CAPABLE OF DEFEATING PENETRATION ON FRAGMENTS FROM THE U.S. M-67 GRENADE. GAS TANK CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING GRENADE ON FRONT AND UNDERNEATH AND 9MM FROM SIDES AND REAR. ROOF CONSISTS OF GRP TO DEFEAT 9MM. FRONT END BEHIND GRILL REINFORCED WITH 1 1/4 INCH STEEL PIPING AND GRP LOUVRES. ONE OTHER SECURITY SYSTEM OF NOTE IS A FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM INSTALLED IN TRUNK OF VEHICLES. AGENT USED IS FE1301, A GAS WHICH CAN BE DELIVERED UNDER PRESSURE TO NOZZLES PLACED TO FLOOD THE GAS TANK AND ENGINE COMPARTMENT AREAS. THIS SYSTEM CAN BE ACTIVATED MANUALLY BY THE DRIVER (PRESSURE DEVICE PLACED TO LEFT OF WHEEL ON DASH) OR AUTOMATICALLY BY AN ELECTRONIC HEAR SENSING DEVICE. FE1301 WILL NOT DAMAGE VEHICULAR COMPONENTS OR INJURE OCCUPANTS. SECURITY SYSTEMS HAVE ADDED APPROXIMATELY 1,100 LBS TO WEIGHT OF CAR, BUT THE EXTRA HEAVY DUTY SPRINGS AND FRAME SHOULD ABSORB THIS ADDITIONAL WEIGHT ACCEPTABLY. DURING TESTS OF PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED CARS, WE FOUND CAR IS VERY MANEUVER-ABLE DURING HIGH SPEED LANE SHIFTS ON HIGHWAYS, CORNERS AND HOLDS WELL AT HIGH SPEEDS ON NARROW MOUNTAIN ROADS, STOPS QUICKLY AND WILL ACCELERATE FROM STOP TO 60 MPH IN APPROXIMATELY 12 SEC. OVERALL APPEARANCE OF THIS CAR QUITE ELEGANT AND MEETS REPRESENTATIONAL STANDARDS. APPROXIMATE COST PER CAR IS DOL 52,000.

3. ABOVE CAR WILL REMAIN UNDER GENERAL SY OPERATIONAL CONTROL. YOUR POST PROPOSED AS RECIPIENT THIS CAPABILITY BASED ON POSSIBLE THREATS AGAINST COM. IF SUCH THREATS ABATE IN FUTURE, CAR MAY BE SENT TO ANOTHER POST HAVING GREATER RELATIVE NEED. FYI, SY IS BUDGETED TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE PARTS AND SERVICE FOR FULLY ARMORED CARS. FURTHER DETAILS ON VEHICLES AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS CONFIDENTIAL

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WILL FOLLOW LATER.

4. ABOVE VEHICLE WILL BE HELD PENDING NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE BY SANTIAGO OF ABOVE PROPOSAL. KISSINGER

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NNN

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